

The Josh Billings Papers--Sum  
Natal History.

The alligator is not a native of New England; he is too useless a critter to be born there.

He belongs down South, and resides in the same swamp that the copperhead does.

He lives upon a raw pig, and don't hesitate to take them whole, if there don't happen to be a smaller one on hand.

He is also fond of a little nigger once in a while, by way of fresh bite.

They are amphibious, and several other kinds of cuss tew plenty to men-shen.

What on earth they are good for I don't seem to know, unless it is tew watch for pigs.

Their hides can be tanned into leather, but they are as hard to skin as a beech tree is; and the leather when tanned is just about as limber as a cook in stove. But one pair of boots made out of alligator will last as long as a man's name does! The only way to wear them out is to leave them away.

Alligator meat is not luscious. If you ask for it at a first class hotel the waiter will tell you "that they are just out." It tastes as I should think the beef of a mule would who had been worked forty years in a brick yard, and then been struck by lightning to get rid of him.

When the alligator's mouth is wide open, the head is just about in the center of his body; but they have one virtue I came very near forgetting--they make a very still noise, altho they have more jaw than any other critter I know of.

These are some of the heaviest facts I have been able to gather about the alligator.

The alligator seems to be a second addition to the crocodile, made out of what was left.

I think the crocodile usually lays eggs when they want more crocodiles, but I don't know--but if they do, and I ever find the nest, and the old fellow aint on the nest, I shouldn't hesitate to hatch out the eggs myself--with a club.

This is all I know at present about the alligator.

## THE CROW.

Next to the monkey, the crow has the most deviltry to spare. They are born very wild, can be tamed as easy as the goat can, but a tame crow is actually worse than a sore thumb.

If there is any thing about the house that they can get into, it is because the thing aint big enuf. I had rather watch a distrikt skool than one tame crow. Crows live on what they can steal, and they will steal any thing that aint tied down.

They are fond of meat vittles, and are the first to hold an inquest over a departed horse or a still sheep. They are a fine bird to hunt, but a hard one to kill; they can see you 2 miles first, and will smell a gun rite thro the side of a mountain.

They are not songstirs, altho they have a good voice to cultivate, but what they do sing they seem to understand thoroughly; long practiss has made them perfect.

The crow is a tuff bird, and can stand the heat like a blacksmith, and cold like a stun wall.

They bld their nests among a tree, and lay twice, and both eggs would hatch out if they were laid in a snow bank--ther aint no such thing as stoping a young crow.

Crows are very lengthy. I believe they live always. I never knu one to die a natral death, and don't believe they knu how.

They are always thin in flesh, and are like an old injun-rubber shew, poor inside and out.

They are not considered fine eating, altho I have read somewhere of a billed crow, but still I never heard of the same man hankering for som billed crow 2 times.

This ess on the crow is copied from nature, and if it iz true, I aint to blame for it; natur made the crow, I didn't; if I had I would have made her more honest and not quite so tuff.

## HENS.

Leads me to remark, in the first place, that thus far they are a success.

They are domestick, and occasionally are tuff.

This is owing to their not being billed often enuf in their younger dage; but the hen aint tew blame for this.

Billed hen is universally respected. There is a grate deal of originality tew in the hen--exactly how much I cant tell, historians fight so much about it. Sum say Knower had hens with him in the ark, and some say he didn't. So it goes, which and tuther.

I kant tell yu which was born first, the hen or the egg; sumtimes I think the egg wuz, and sumtimes I think I don't kno, and I kant tell now which iz right for the life of me.

Laying eggs is the hen's best grip.

A hen that kant lay eggs--is laid out. One egg is considered a fair day's work for a hen. I hev herd of their doing better, but I don't want a hen of mine tew do it--it is apt to hurt their constitution and by-laws, and thus impair their future worth.

The poet sez, buttfully:

"Sumbdy has stole our old blew hen,  
I wish they'd let her bee,  
She used to lay 2 eggs a day,  
And Sundays she laid 3."

This sounds trev enuf for poetry, but I will bet 75 thousand dollars that it never took place.

This bet stands open till the 17th day of next November, at half-past 12 o'clock.

VERMONT SOLDIERS BURIED IN WESTERN FLORIDA.--We are in receipt of a letter from John Q. Dickinson, formerly of this State, dated Pensacola, Florida, April 10th, 1868, desiring us to announce that he has been appointed agent of the government for collecting the bodies of soldiers buried in Western Florida and Southern Alabama for interment in the government cemetery at Baranacas, Fla.

Any person having friends that were in the army, buried in the region named can have them reinterred free by sending to Maj. Dickinson their company and regiment and the place where they are buried, or he will attend to the shipment of the remains of soldiers to their friends at the North if preferred. We shall publish in a few days a list of the Vermont soldiers buried at Baranacas, Florida. His address is Maj. John Q. Dickinson, Pensacola, Florida. --*Rutland Herald.*

## Summary of News.

—The New St. Cloud hotel at New York cost \$250,000.

—Dr. Hayes thinks of continuing his Arctic explorations.

—Albert Richardson will finish his life of Grant this month.

—Mrs. Bloomer, the bloomer, lives a retired life at Council Bluffs.

—"Marion Harland" is the wife of E. P. Terhune, of Newark, N. J.

—There is an 18 month old baby in San Francisco that weighs 35 pounds.

—White Sulphur Springs, Va., is being fitted up for 1,500 guests.

—The little town of Canton, Conn., has 60 voters named Case. Among so many Cases there certainly must be some hard ones.

—The New York Central Railroad was made "Central" by the consolidation of eight separate sectional companies.

—The newest ear-ring in Paris is a diamond button, that does not hang from the ear, but is put through like a stud, and looks like a diamond nail.

—An English clergyman advertises his living for exchange, adding that it is "a most desirable position for a delicate man; no Dissenters in the parish."

—Since the Legislature of Iowa passed a law authorizing cities and towns to aid railroads, there has been great activity in many of the interior counties relative to the matter.

—Strawberries are twenty-five cents a basket at New York.

—The citizens of Fairfield, Ct., will dedicate a soldiers' monument about the 4th of July next.

—"Data," of the Baltimore Sun, says it is reported that Secretary Seward is negotiating for the purchase of Iceland and Greenland.

—One of our best representative Republicans says he hopes to see Andrew Johnson convicted this week and Hannibal Hamlin nominated for the Vice-Presidency next week.

—"Subrosa" is proposed as a name for the New York Women's Club.

—"FOUL PLAY."—The brig Home-spun, homeward bound, encountered a terrible gale on the Pacific and, passing out of her course, made a barren island, and hoping to gain fresh water, of which the crew was in want, sent a boat ashore and discovered and received a half-famished Englishman named Robert Penfold, who had been wrecked some months before, and had subsisted several months on shell fish, principally mother-of-pearl oysters.

—The suspension bridge across the Hudson River, at the Highlands, has been planned. Its total length is to be 2490 feet, with a span between the towers which are 1865 feet above high water, and is to bear a pressure of 5280 tons. There are to be 20 cables, each about 14 inches in diameter. The towers are to be about 270 feet high, and the iron and steel in the bridge will weigh 17,005 tons.

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